

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1207

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor Tommy Kilby for his dedicated service to Morgan County, the 12th Senate District, and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize a former colleague who has dedicated his career to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Kilby has been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of his beloved Morgan County for many years; and

WHEREAS, he followed in his father's footsteps and began his peerless career in public service in 1982, when he was elected to the Morgan County Commission at the tender age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, after being reelected in 1986, Tommy Kilby was selected by his colleagues to serve as chairman of the Morgan County Commission for 1989-1990, thus becoming the first non-county executive to hold that important position; and

WHEREAS, distinguishing himself in the realm of politics with his heartfelt and proficient service, Tommy Kilby was elected Morgan County Executive in 1994 and was subsequently reelected to unprecedented second and third terms; and

WHEREAS, he provided visionary leadership in improving Morgan County's financial condition during his tenure, having reduced its debt significantly and restored fund balances for essential services by the time he left office; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Kilby served Morgan County well as county executive, acquiring more than eight million dollars in grants to develop parks and recreational facilities and expand water lines to 350 families in the county and working with State and local officials to secure the much-needed Lancing Overpass; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Kilby also spearheaded the effort to establish the first-ever Chamber of Commerce in Morgan County and served on its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Kilby was honored numerous times for his exceptional leadership and acumen as a county official; he was selected as the *Morgan County News*' Best Elected Official for 2001-2002, received the Democratic and Republican Bipartisan Leadership Honor, and proudly accepted the East Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators' Excellence in Public Administration Award in 1997; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Tommy Kilby served with distinction as a member of the East Tennessee Development District and East Tennessee Human Resource Agency; and

WHEREAS, in a 2003 special election, the good people of the 12th Senate District, including Campbell, Fentress, Morgan, Rhea, Roane, and Scott counties, evinced their great faith in the capabilities of Tommy Kilby by electing him as their representative to the Tennessee Senate, a position in which he performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, for nearly six years, Senator Tommy Kilby was a valuable participant in the legislative process and earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he made as Chairman of the Senate Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Committee, Vice Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, and Secretary of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in the Senate, Tommy Kilby passed Haley's Law, which enhanced penalties for convicted child abusers, and legislation to help nursing home residents retain more of their money and secured significant funding for the completion of the Roane State campus in Wartburg; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kilby was also instrumental in the construction of the Brushy Mountain Complex in Morgan County, which at the time represented the largest capital outlay in

State history, and he worked successfully to secure funding for the expansion of Highway 62 in his district; and

WHEREAS, always eschewing the gridlock of partisan politics, this singular gentleman was honored as Legislator of the Year by the East Tennessee Development District, the State Opticians Association, the AARP, and the State Register of Deeds Association; and

WHEREAS, a 1982 graduate of Oakdale High School, Tommy Kilby earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from Tusculum College and his master's degree in secondary education from Grand Canyon University; and

WHEREAS, pursuing other avenues after leaving the General Assembly, he now teaches at his alma mater, Oakdale, and serves as pastor of New Life Baptist Church, which he regards as the greatest honor of his life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Tommy Kilby is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Rachel Kilby; daughter, Latisha Kilby; son, Corey Thomas Kilby; sons and daughters-in-law, Tyler and Courtney Harris and Noah and Beth Harris; and granddaughter, Emberly; and

WHEREAS, truly a man of the people, Tommy Kilby exemplifies the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and his ongoing commitment to the health and prosperity of his fellow citizens is worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Tommy Kilby for his dedicated service to Morgan County, the 12th Senate District, and the State of Tennessee, pay tribute to his long and fruitful career in public service, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.